



MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

MARVEL
COMICS

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS CODE
AUTHORITY

EARLY
MAR
175

VENGEANCE

NEW GENIX

STEEL RAVEN



DIRECT EDITION



17511 >

7 59606 02214 4

\$1.75 US / 2.35 CAN

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

RICHARD ASHFORD EDITOR

MICHAEL KRAIGER ASSISTANT EDITOR

RALPH MACCHIO GROUP EDITOR

TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

COVER BY STEVE LIGHTLE STEEL RAVEN

WRITER STEVE LIGHTLE
ARTIST STEVE LIGHTLE
LETTERS ELLIE DEVILLE
COLORS MARIANNE LIGHTLE

When dirty deeds need doin', Steve Lightle's heavily armed creation Steel Raven is who gets the job done. Originally appearing in MCP #150, she's back on the job and we want to know if you'd like to see more of her.

LUNATIK

"PUNISHMENT"

SCRIPT CO PLOTTER COLORIST
AND CO CREATOR

LOVERN KINDZIERSKI
PENCILS, CO-PLOTTER, AND CO-CREATOR

KEITH GIFFEN
INKS, HE DID CHARLIE ADLARD

THINKS HE DID TOO JON BABCOCK

If you play with fire, you're gonna get burned. If you're gonna have a dance, then you gotta pay the band. If you wanna get to heaven (?), you gotta raise a little hell. **THE LUNATIK!**

OUCH! In issue #173 we inadvertently mixed up pages 2 and 3 of the Vengeance story. I don't know how it happened, as it was a double page spread and the pages were taped together, but I didn't catch it when I looked at proofs, and would like to apologize to both the creative team, and you readers for the mix-up.

assistant editor guy,
Michael

MARVEL READERS PRESENT

315 NORTH PARK AVENUE, SOUTH NEW YORK, NY 10018

Month after month, and sometimes week after week, we received letters from Ben Herman, and Joey Marchese, so we thought it fitting that their letters were presented here in our final issue, along with one that by the looks of it came from one of our youngest readers. Without further ado, the last Marvel Readers Present letters page.

Dear Hawkeye:

You're my favorite super hero. I like your arrows. I like when you go in the night.

Kent Sundgren

413 Pecan Pl.

Brentwood, CA 94513

Kent sent us this letter a while ago in response to the Hawkeye series. Kent, Thanks for the letter and the drawing you did of Hawkeye.

Dear Richard and Michael:

I had the deep misfortune of reading today in MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #170 that this title will be coming to an end in a few all too brief months. For me, this isn't just the cancellation of a book, rather, it is a loss I profoundly regret. You see, I have been collecting MCP every other week, on a regular basis, since issue #44. By the time this title reached #90, I had also procured the first 43 issues as well. My attachment to MCP has been long lasting and ongoing. Therefore, if you will indulge me, I'd like to reminisce on what are, in my mind, some of MCP's major achievements. Think of it as a eulogy, if you will.

To begin with, MCP introduced a number of new characters who have subsequently made their mark on the rest of the Marvel Universe. Coldblood, 7, Nit-Man, Damage Control, Cyber-Salome, and the Clan Destine all made their debuts here before appearing elsewhere. Then we have another sort of introduction, in terms of creative personnel. Scott Lobdell and Jae Lee, two giants of the industry, both made their creative debuts within the pages of MCP. Fred Harper, Mariano Nicieza, Lawrence Brown, Reggie Jones, Skip Dietz, and John Czap are creators who, and many others, were first exposed to within MCP within the last couple of years. Major stories also had their roots in MCP. Wolverine first set foot in Madripoor in the very first issue of this title. He also had his first encounter with Ghost Rider here, in a story that led directly into the latter's book. The groundwork for Doctor Strange's rivalry with Salome was laid out during the "Siege of Darkness" crossover. Jack Russell's rebirth as a newer, more powerful Werewolf was another highlight. I would like to mention, finally, there was Barry Windsor Smith's "Weapon X," a story that has had an extremely significant impact on all of the mutant titles, and on a certain Canadian mutant in particular.

On a more personal note, the number of characters in the Marvel Universe who I encountered within these pages for the first time make up quite a list: Sunfire, El Aquila, Devil Slayer, Poison Union Jack, Wolfpack, Gabriel Aquarian, Her Overmind, Singray, Collective Man, Woodgod, and Stryx were all unknown to me before their appearances in MCP. Then there were all the obscure characters who had a new life breathed into them by appearing in this title, such as some of those mentioned above: Werewolf, Man-Thing, consistor, and Paladin were others who fit into that category.

Of course I'd be remiss if I didn't thank you guys for printing so many of my letters. To date, 34 issues of MCP had letters written by yours truly. It was quite a feat writing all those letters, and looking back on some of my early ones, I see my writing skills have improved by leaps and bounds. Thanks for taking the time to read all those lengthy missives, because I knew I must have driven you two crazy with all my requests and suggestions.

Well, I guess this is it. I would like to once more thank you guys for all the exciting stories that appeared in this title. A

(continued on cover three)

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS Vol. 1 No. 173 March 1995 (ISSN #1044-1180)
Published by MARVEL COMICS, Terry Stewart, President; Stan Lee, Publisher; Michael Hobson, Group Vice President; Publishing OFFICE OF PUBLICATION, 387 PARK AVE. N.Y. SOUTH NEW YORK, N.Y. 10018. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published bi-weekly. Copyright © 1995 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price \$1.75 per copy in the U.S. and \$2.35 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: U.S. \$21.00; foreign \$33.00, and Canadian subscribers must add \$10.00 for postage and GST (GST #R127032663). No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or mailings removed, nor is a mutilated condition. WOLVERINE and GHOST RIDER (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) are trademarks of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS, c/o MARVEL DIRECT MARKETING INC. SUBSCRIPTION DEPT. PO BOX 1879 DANBURY, CT 06813-1879. TELEPHONE # (203) 743-5331. Printed in the U.S.A.

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NEW GENIX

WRITER STEVE LIGHTLE
ART STEVE LIGHTLE
LETTERS JUL HIGGINS
COLORS.....MARIANNE LIGHTLE
It's 3065 do you know what your children are?

VENGEANCE

"FINAL GAMBIT"

WRITER CHRIS COOPER
PENCILS FRED HARPER
INKS REGGIE JONES
LETTERS JON BABCOCK
COLORS ASHLEY POSELLA

Michael Badillino, helpless in a Brooklyn cemetery, Vengeance, facing down Reverend Nice in Oakland, California. What's going on? Read on.

FROM RICHARD AND MICHAEL

This is the end, and we're headed out with a bang! This issue features Steve Lightle's opus featuring the enigmatic Steel Raven and New Genix. We've been heading towards this bang-up ending the past couple of issues, helped along like a locomotive out of control by the tremendous efforts of the Lunatic crew, Lovern, Keith, Charlie, Simon Bisley, and Kevin Nolan.

It's been a lot of work, and also a lot of fun. One of the great things about working on an anthology title is all the great creative teams you get to work with. With the Ghost Rider/Vengeance art team both living a subway ride away, we had regular visits (and lunches) with Reggie Jones, and his daughter, Sojourner, as well as the unstoppable energy that is Fred Harper. (Wait till you see his Ghost Rider 2099 painted cover for 2099 UNLIMITED. He first unrolled all six by four feet of it in our office). We've had the pleasure of working with some of the most creative folks in the industry, far to many to name here, but if you've been along for the ride you know who we mean. Also, it was a great pleasure to provide a place for creators new to the Marvel Universe to start creating a bit of that Marvel magic. It was a lot of fun to team-up writers and artists then sit back and wait for the FEDEX packages. Now that it's done with, that's what we'll miss the most, the fun. In time we're sure to forget the grueling schedule, or the frantic moments when we had to make last minute changes as the book was going to the printer, or the moments we sweated it out hoping the printer would understand, and could make some very important corrections. And the times when nothing seemed to be going right.

The very word comics, suggests fun and entertainment, we hope that we've brought you a little of both in the past year-and-a-half, because for the both of us, along with being a job, it has been fun, and entertaining, and educational as well. Thanks for being there.

Curtain down,
Richard and Michael

list which is way to extensive to even bother going into. I'd like to acknowledge Terry Kavanagh, who did a fine job editing this title and commissioning many superb tales. Next I'd like to thank you two guys for coming on and giving this book a major overhaul and instilling fresh blood into MCP. Thank you for all your hard work, and good luck on any and all future projects!

Ben Herman
45 Runyon Place
Scarsdale, NY 10583

De4ar Richard and Michael,

#170 Five more issues to go. I'm rather saddened by the departure of MCP from the shelves every two weeks, because despite this comic's many shortcomings, it always had something new and pleasing to offer. This sounds rather selfish of me to say, but rather than reviewing #170 (In short: a wonderful -- and I mean that -- Force Works cover, and some interesting stuff inside. Jimmy Chung and Martin Griffiths have a future in art, and Ray Garcia's solo work was also a treat. How's that for quick?) I'd like to focus this letter on "The Best of MCP" for possible inclusion in the final issue. I'd hope that it would only seem fitting for at least part of my letter to show up in the final issue of the title I've been seen in for nearly 75 issues now, without further ado.

What brought me on the MCP bandwagon was Barry Windsor Smith's stunning work on Weapon-X despite shortcomings in the writing department. A cute piece about Iron Man in Disneyland, which appeared in the first issue of MCP I bought regularly, helped attach me to the book. A Beast serial, with art by the budding Rob Liefeld and Jae Lee (two who have gone on to bigger things!), was also a favorite of mine. This title has been a stepping stone for the artists who have worked on it: a short time ago, I got word that Fred Harper had been signed as the new regular penciler on Vertigo's Animal Man. Fred, whose work in #170's Vengeance serial was great, deserved that assignment.

Other memorable MCP moments included Peter David and Sam Keith (there's another star who rose to fame thanks to MCP -- quite an impressive roster!) with their introduction of Cyber, and subsequent serials by luminaries like Tim Truman. Tim's story, as well as Howard Mackie's Ghost Rider/Cable story, struck me as rather eclectic shorts in MCP. The variety we've seen in these past 100 issues alone has been amazing. Going back further, Marv Wolfman, Chris Claremont, and John Buscema all applied their talents here. We've even seen a Ravage 2099 preview written by Stan Lee. Wow.

You asked about the worst piece of trash you've printed. I'd hate to insult any individuals, so here are, on the whole, some rather poor strips MCP has given the light of day to. I'd say many American Eagle stories. A devastatingly bad Nightstalkers comic during this comic's foray into the dark world of the Midnight Sons, and some of the more ridiculous Ghost Rider and Vengeance serials would come close to "trash". But then again, it's all art, and one person's idea of a Picasso could be what another perceives as a three-year-old's scribble.

It's been the variety that's made MCP's 175-issue run actually remarkable. I'm glad I was along for the ride, and am angered to see everything come to such a quick end. The comic anthology is on the rise, and a total renovation still might be an interesting thing to talk about. Oh well, With a heavy sigh, here's my final "see you in 141!"

Joey Marchese
P.O. Box 802
Clark, NJ 07066

Thanks for your words and time folks. We thought we would be deluged with letters from readers telling us what their favorites were and which stories they hated, but once we made the announcement that it was the end of the line for MCP, we received a few letters from our regular writers and not much more. It seems from all letters received that Barry Windsor Smith's Weapon-X was the high water mark, against which all other stories had to measure.

"NO MORE ROOM--
UNH!!

"-INDIVIDUAL
INITIATIVE."

"THOSE COWBOY
DAYS ARE OVER,"
FURY SAYS.

ALMOST BELIEVED
IT TOO... AH--
THERE SHE GOES!

-- 'BOUT THIS
MYSTERIOUS TECH-
NOLOGY BROKER--

"-FOR--

THEN MY SOURCE AT
HYDRA LEAKS INFO--

-PUSSBAG!

"LAST-HOPE-
MANKIND--

THERE IT IS!
WE GOT AUDIO!

"IT IS THROUGH YOU
THAT HUMANITY MAY
STEP BEYOND ITS OWN
ARMAGEDDON--

- YOU HAVE BEEN
GENETICALLY
ENGINEERED--

- TO RAISE MANKIND
FROM THE ASHES OF THE
HORIZON WARS!

-- BEEN SELLING
CLASSIFIED INFO TO THE
HIGHEST BIDDER.

OH YEAH!--

-- CLEAR AS
A BELL!

WHAT KINDA CRA--?
SOUNDS LIKE THE
SCI-FI CHANNEL!

I AM PROUD OF YOU,
MY PUPILS...

I BET THE COLD WAR
WAS REAL GOOD TO
THIS GUY!

-- MY CHILDREN.

KNOW THAT YOU HAVE
A GREAT DESTINY...

FIVE
PEOPLE.

TECH-BROKER'S BEEN
SUPPLYING STATE-A-THE
ART WEAPONRY TO
HYDRA FOR MORE THAN
FORTY YEARS!

LET'S GO TO
VISHAL...

CONCRETE - AND LOTS
OF IT-- STEEL - LOOKS LIKE
PLASTIC MAYBE - AHH--!

FOUR MALES -
ONE FEMALE...

-- AND I SHALL SEE TO IT THAT YOU ARE
EQUIPPED TO REALIZE THIS DESTINY.

SO LET US NOT NEGLECT
OUR LESSONS...

THE FORTRESS: SUB-BASEMENT, LEVEL 4, WASTE MANAGEMENT.

-- FOR YOU HAVE
MUCH TO LEARN!

LEWIS
by

REMEMBER, CHILDREN, YOU CARRY A
HEAVY BURDEN ON YOUR SHOULDERS.

FANTASTIC! WITH THIS
S.H.I.E.L.D. OPTICAL
IMAGING WHATSIT -
IT'S LIKE BEING IN THE
ROOM WITH THEM!

EVEN IF IT IS THE
WRONG ROOM!

YOUR
BURDEN IS
NOTHING LESS
THAN THE
FUTURE OF
THE HUMAN
RACE!

JUST SOME OLD GUY, TALKIN'
GARBAGE TO SOME PUNKS -
NOTHING IMPORTANT.



- BUT I
PUT IT
TOGETHER!

AND WHEN
S.H.I.E.L.D.
GETS MY
REPORT ON
THIS
PLACE -

- EVEN THE
PRESIDENT
WILL KNOW
MY NAME!

WHEN THE
CANADIAN
TIPPED ME
OFF TO THIS
'FORTRESS'
PLACE -

- HE DIDN'T
KNOW ABOUT
MY HYDRA
INFORMANT
AND THE TECH
MERCHANT
ANGLE --

EXCUSE
ME ...



BUSTED!

NOSE BUSTED—
EYES WATERING--

THERE
ARE
DESIGN
FLAWS--

CAN'T
SEE--

GOTTA
FOLLOW
VOICE...

--IN THE
OPTICAL
IMAGER.

CRAP!

I CAN
MENTION
IT TO THE
MANUFACTURER
FOR YOU--

--AT OUR
NEXT
MEETING.

THE FORTRESS : LEVEL 7,
SECTION 14 : THE GENESIS ROOM.

YOU'VE BROKEN
DOWN MY BIO-CHEMICAL-
MATRIX - GOOD MOVE.

THANK
YOU.

OF COURSE YOU UNDERSTAND
THAT MY NEXT MOVE ...

STERILIZATION AT THE
UNICELLULAR LEVEL !

YOU SET ME UP,
ZACHARY.

DO YOU CONCEDE, SIDNEY?

THERE IS STILL A
STRONG PROBABILITY
OF SPECIATION.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR OTHER LITTLE GAME, ZACHARY - ARE YOU WINNING THAT TOO?

UNDENIABLY, SID. HAVEN'T YOU BEEN PAYING ATTENTION?

I WOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT CONTAMINATION.

THE CHILDREN ARE SAFE, ALL SNUG IN THEIR BEDS - ARANDA HAS THE S.H.I.E.L.D AGENT -

ENOUGH CONDESCENSION, ZACHARY -

STEEL RAVEN IS THE LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION.

"WHILE THERE IS LIFE THERE IS HOPE," HA-HA-HA! HEH-HEH-

- DON'T WORRY YOUR HEAD.

AND YOU KNOW IT!

I WOULD BE
CONCERNED ABOUT
CONTAMINATION.

ENOUGH
CONDESCENSION,
ZACHARY -

STEEL RAVEN
IS THE LIKELY
SOURCE OF
CONTAMINATION.

- DON'T WORRY
YOUR HEAD.

**AND YOU
KNOW IT!**

AH...

GOOD COMEBACK, SIDNEY.

AMINO ACIDS ARE ABUNDANTLY VIABLE -- BUT REMEMBER ...

--IT IS MUCH EASIER TO DESTROY THAN IT IS TO CREATE.

AMINO ACIDS ARE
ABUNDANTLY VIABLE -
BUT REMEMBER ...

--IT IS MUCH EASIER TO DESTROY
THAN IT IS TO CREATE.

"SID, ARE YOU STILL TRYING TO MAKE THE SAME TIRESOME POINT CONCERNING MS. CHARBONEAU?"



VISA...

OLD LIBRARY...

DINER'S CLUB...

DRIVER'S LICENSE...

WHERE'S THAT DAMN SECURITY CARD?
AH... BINGO!



THIRTEEN MINUTES. JUST ENOUGH TIME FOR A SYSTEMS CHECK BEFORE...

HEY!

HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?

FUNNY - IT TAKES A SPECTRUM BLUE SECURITY CLEARANCE TO GET IN HERE...



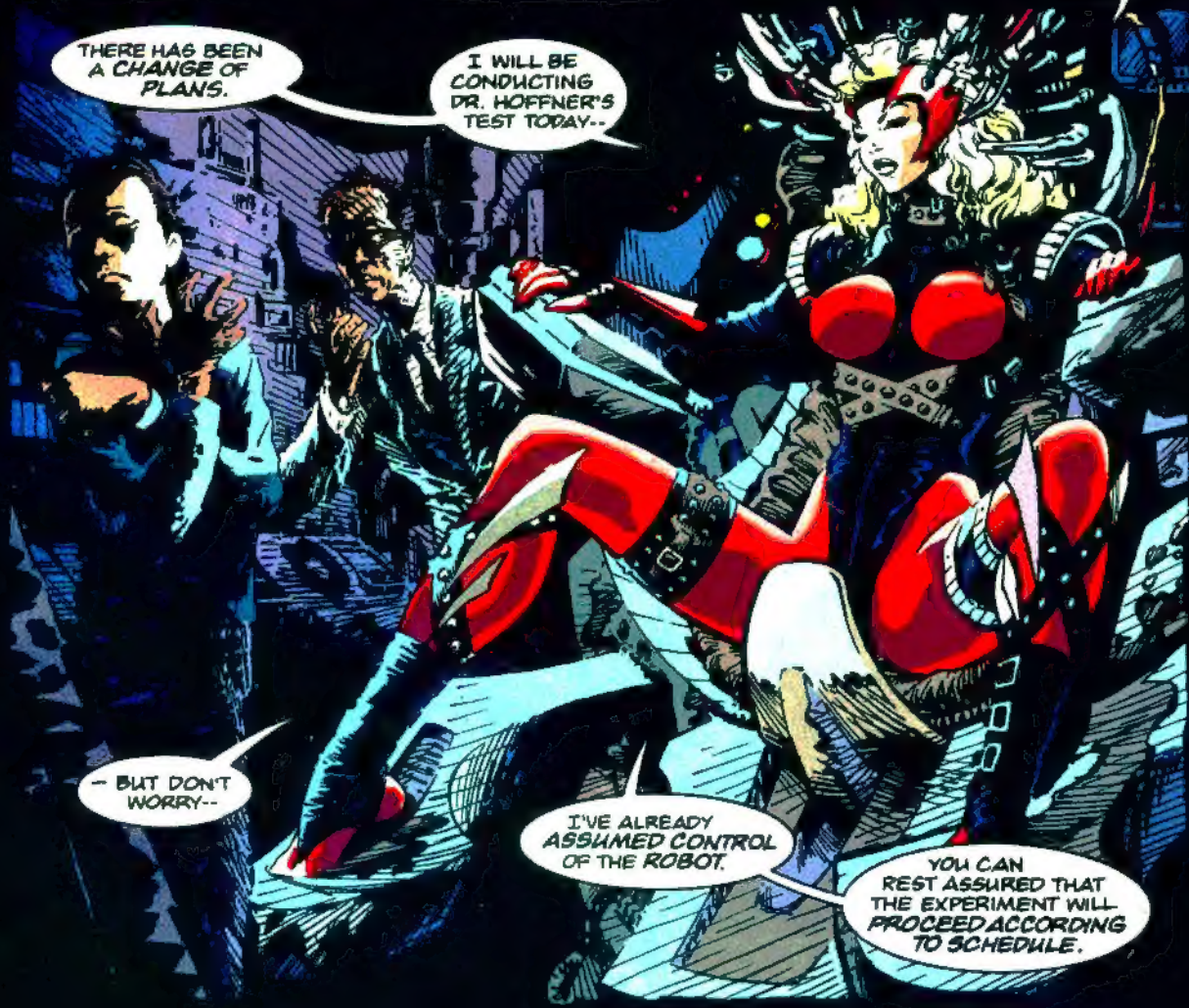
NOW NOW...

YOU DON'T NEED TO BE AFRAID OF 'UNCLE MIKEY.



IT'S JUST - I'VE GOT AN IMPORTANT TEST SCHEDULED...

DOCTOR MICHAEL FRANKLIN...



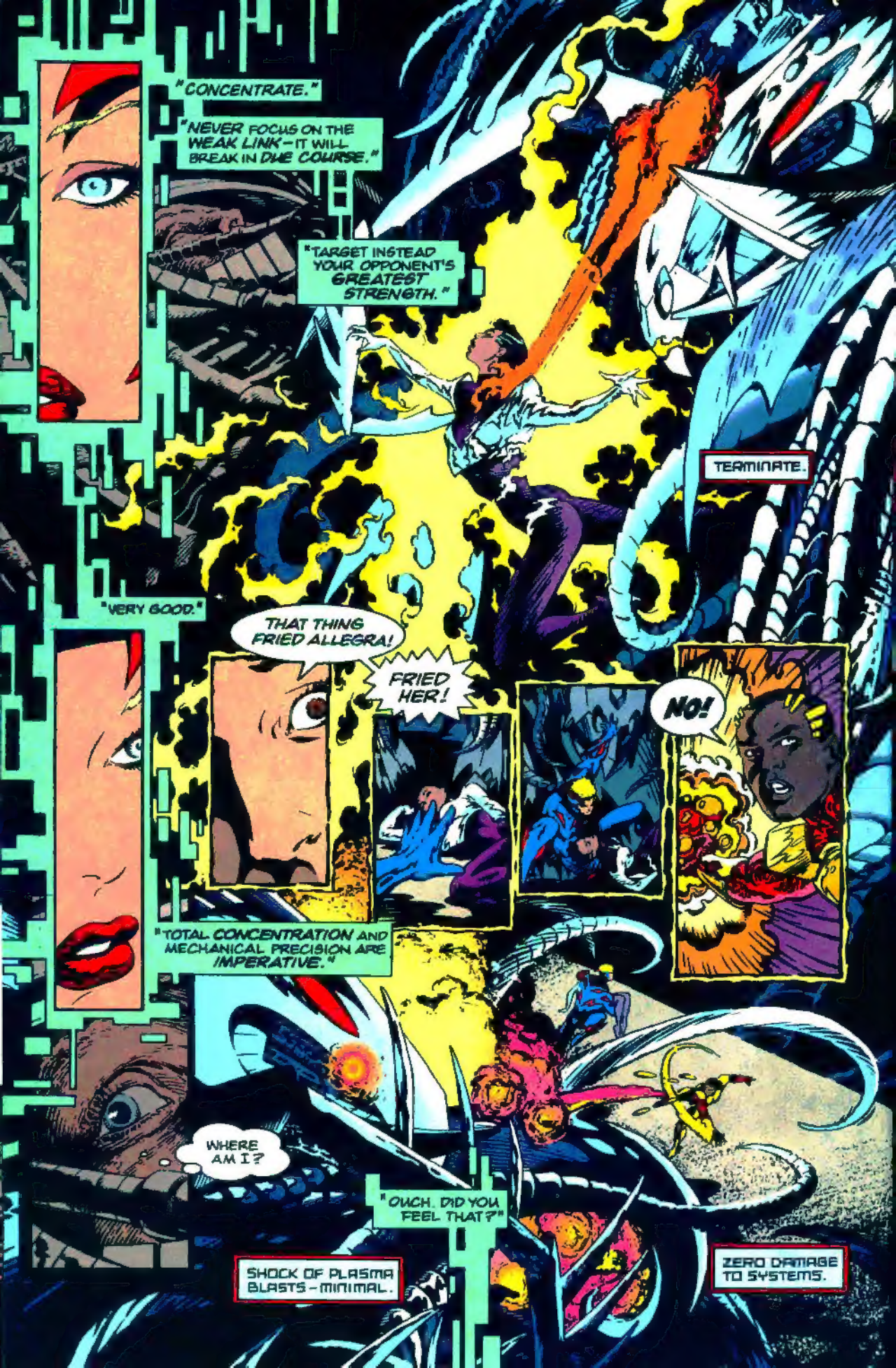
THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE OF PLANS.

I WILL BE CONDUCTING DR. HOFFNER'S TEST TODAY...

- BUT DON'T WORRY--

I'VE ALREADY ASSUMED CONTROL OF THE ROBOT.

YOU CAN REST ASSURED THAT THE EXPERIMENT WILL PROCEED ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE.



"CONCENTRATE."

"NEVER FOCUS ON THE
WEAK LINK - IT WILL
BREAK IN DUE COURSE."

"TARGET INSTEAD
YOUR OPPONENT'S
GREATEST
STRENGTH."

TERMINATE.

"VERY GOOD."

THAT THING
FRIED ALLEGRA!

FRIED
HER!

NO!

"TOTAL CONCENTRATION AND
MECHANICAL PRECISION ARE
IMPERATIVE."

WHERE
AM I?

"OUCH. DID YOU
FEEL THAT?"

SHOCK OF PLASMA
BLASTS - MINIMAL.

ZERO DAMAGE
TO SYSTEMS.

IMPRESSIVE
SHIELDING

TRAPPED!

YOUR TECHNOLOGY
IS IMPORTANT!
YOU MUST HAVE
THE BEST!

—YOUR
ENEMY
WILL
HAVE!

CAN'T
MOVE!

BUT IF YOU ARE DEPENDENT
ON ANYTHING OR ANYONE —
YOU MAKE YOURSELF
VULNERABLE!

WARNING —
SYSTEMS MALFUNCTION
IMMINENT.

ARE YOU
PAYING
ATTENTION?

HEAT—
UNBEARABLE!

SOMETHING
GRINDING!

YOUR TECHNOLOGY
CAN BETRAY YOU—

—YOUR GUNS
FAIL YOU—

YOUR SHIELD—

—IS NOT THERE FOR YOU

WARNING!

TRUST
NO ONE.



HEY, ALLEGRA!
I THOUGHT WE
LOST YA!

I'M FINE,
ELVIG.

CLASS
DISMISSED

HE'S ALL
SHOOK...

SHUT UP
MUNCHKIN!

LEAN ON
ME, ALLEGRA

I'M FINE,
REALLY.

I...

...I--MEAN--
OUCH!...

WHAM! WE
KICKED THAT THING'S
B-U-T-T!

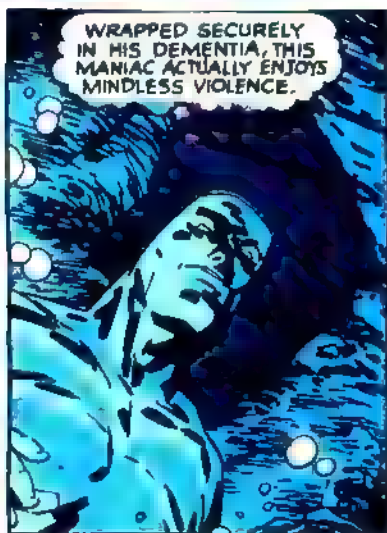
--THANKS,
BLUE

LESSON
LEARNED



THIS
FOOLISHNESS
HAS GONE
ON LONG
ENOUGH.

I'LL NOT
BE CAUGHT IN
THE COBWEBS OF
HIS SOFISTRY!



WRAPPED SECURELY
IN HIS DEMENTIA, THIS
MANIAC ACTUALLY ENJOYS
MINDLESS VIOLENCE.



BUT I KNOW THE MEASURE
OF THIS MADMAN, AND I
SEE NO REASON TO HOLD
BACK--
WHATSOEVER!



C'MON, C'MON!
I'VE GOT A SCHEDULE
HERE! WHAT'S
KEEPING HIM?

I HOPE
HE HASN'T
BEAT IT.



THIS MAD
BETTER BE
WORTH THE
WAIT.



KA-BLOODY
BALAAM!



ALTHOUGH, EARLIER,
I UNDERESTIMATED THE
CRAZED BEHEMOTH'S
MIGHT, WE SHALL SEE
HOW HE FARES WHEN I
TAKE THE FIGHT TO HIM
WITH THE ALL OF MY
COSMIC POWER!



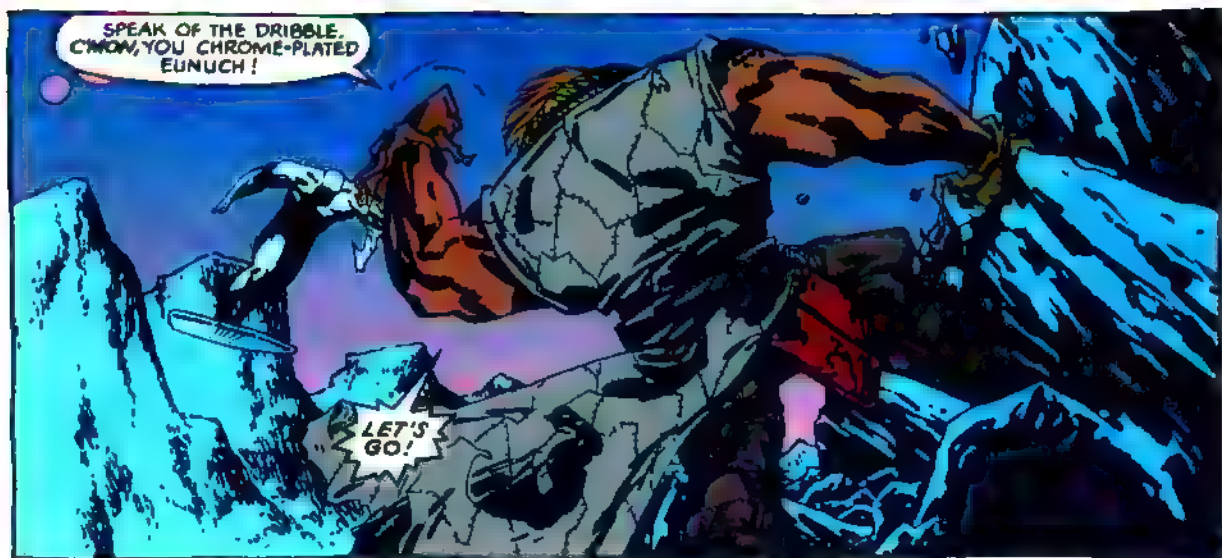
WHOOW!

WHAT
IS
THIS?

DÉJÀ VU!



YOU'D THINK
MR. TINYFOUL COULD
LEARN A FEW NEW
TRICKS!



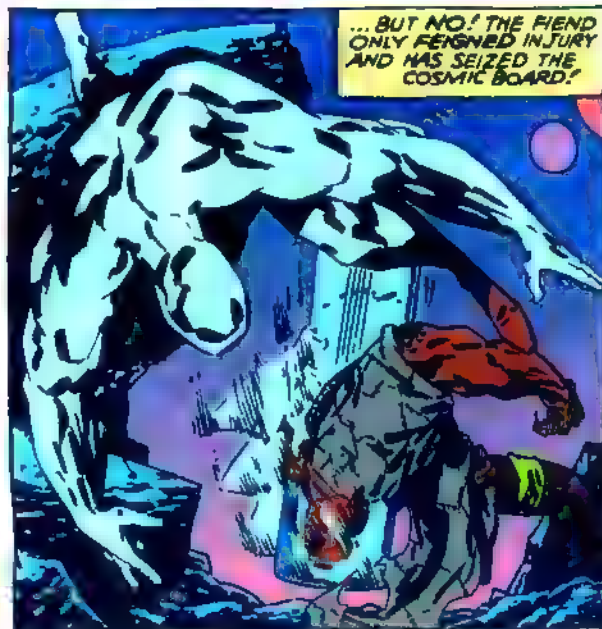
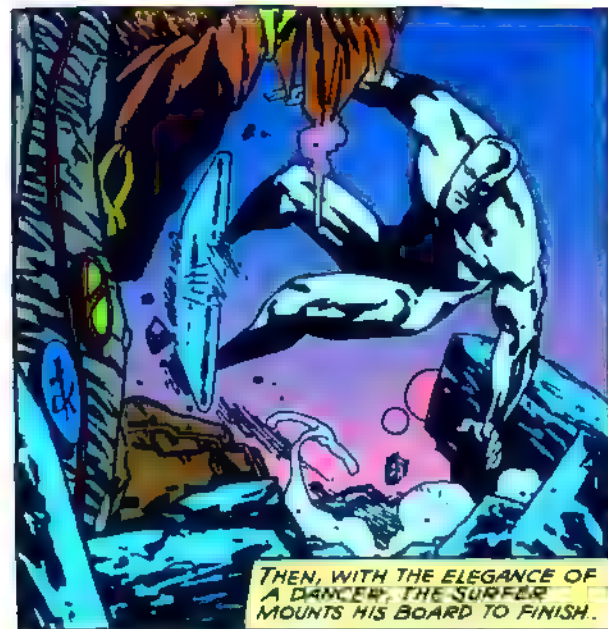
SPEAK OF THE DRIBBLE.
C'MON, YOU CHROME-PLATED
EUNUCH!

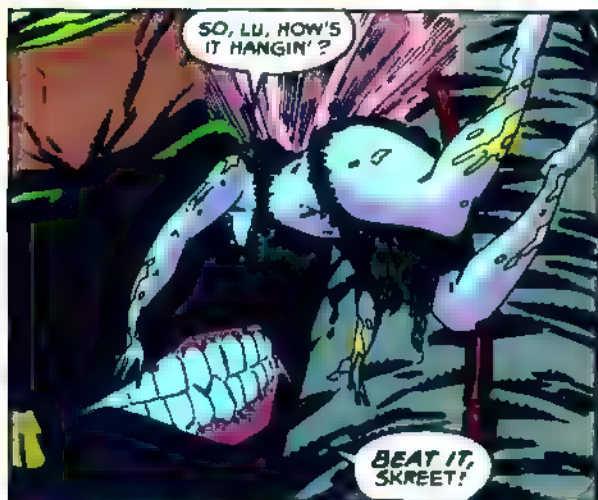
LET'S
GO!



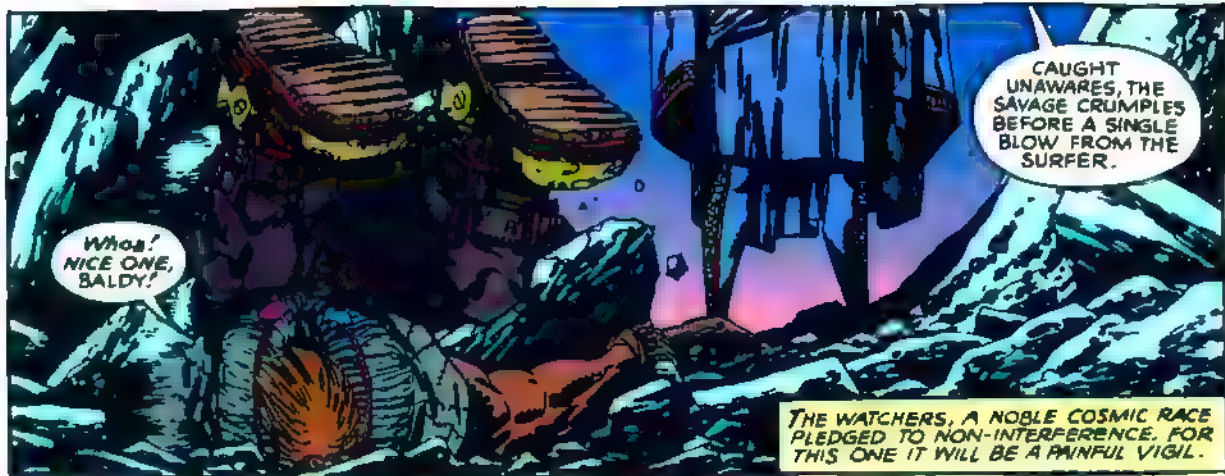
* STAR, ASTERISK, PERCENTAGE MARK,
NUMERAL SIGN AND EXCLAMATION POINT.

THOUGH THE
SCOUNDREL IS DOWN,
THE BATTLE IS YET TO
BE WON, AND HE SHALL
FIND ME NOT UNPREPARED!





W H A M



Whoa!
NICE ONE,
BALDY!

CAUGHT
UNAWARES, THE
SAVAGE CRUMPLES
BEFORE A SINGLE
BLOW FROM THE
SURFER.

THE WATCHERS, A NOBLE COSMIC RACE
PLEGED TO NON-INTERFERENCE. FOR
THIS ONE IT WILL BE A PAINFUL VIGIL.



THE BRITISH
LUNATIC
JUMPS
HIS--

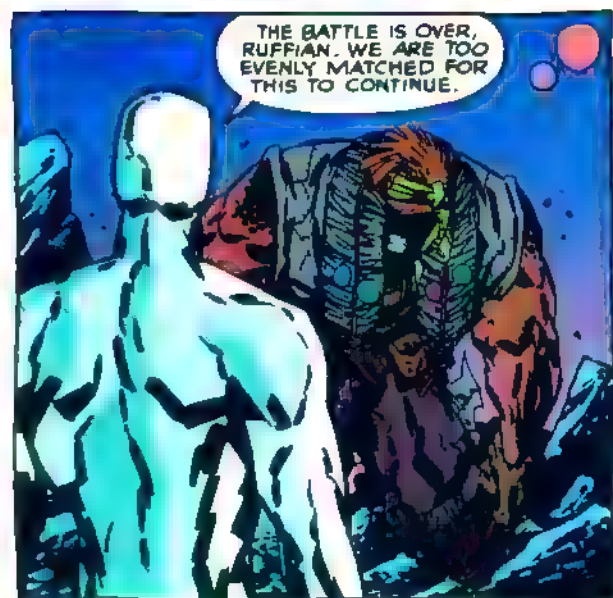
WHAT
THE--?



SHADDUP!



I THOUGHT
WATCHING WAS
WITH YOUR EYES,
BIG MOUTH.



THE BATTLE IS OVER,
RUFFIAN. WE ARE TOO
EVENLY MATCHED FOR
THIS TO CONTINUE.



THERE IS
ONLY ONE
SOLUTION!

HAD I NOT BEEN
BLINDED EARLIER BY
BOTH RAGE AND
GRIEF, I WOULD
HAVE SEEN IT
SOONER.



HEEY!

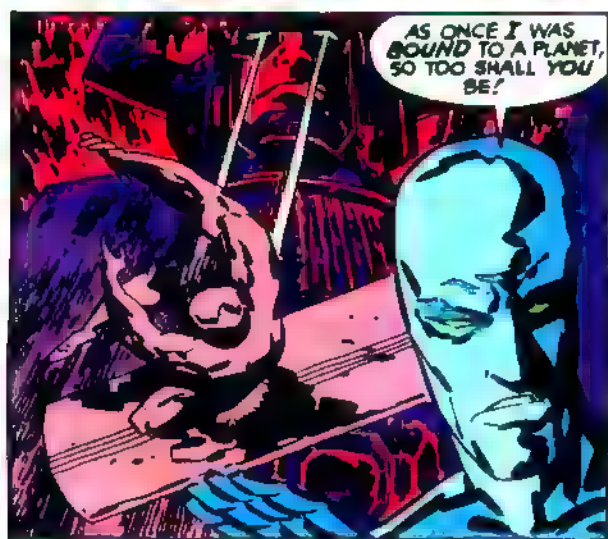
VREEEEEE

I HAVE JUDGED
YOU. NOW--
RECEIVE YOUR
PUNISHMENT!

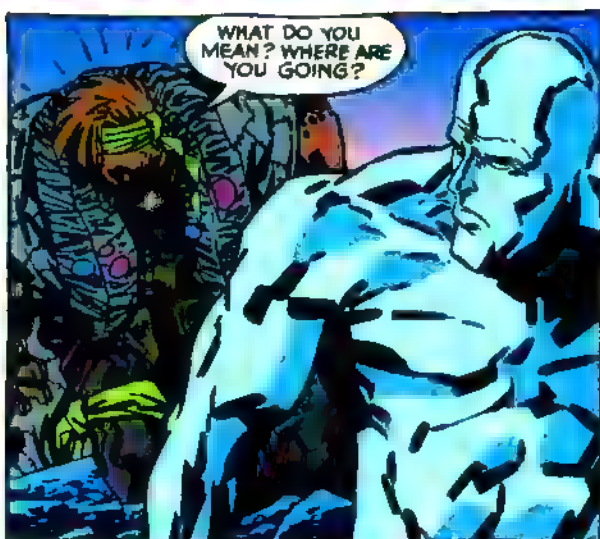


NICE LIGHT SHOW,
TIN MAN, BUT IT'S
NOT THE FOURTH
OF JULY!

IT DOES NOT MARK
ANY CELEBRATION,
BUT SIGNALS THE
BEGINNING OF YOUR
CONFINEMENT.



AS ONCE I WAS
BOUND TO A PLANET,
SO TOO SHALL YOU
BE!



WHAT DO YOU
MEAN? WHERE ARE
YOU GOING?

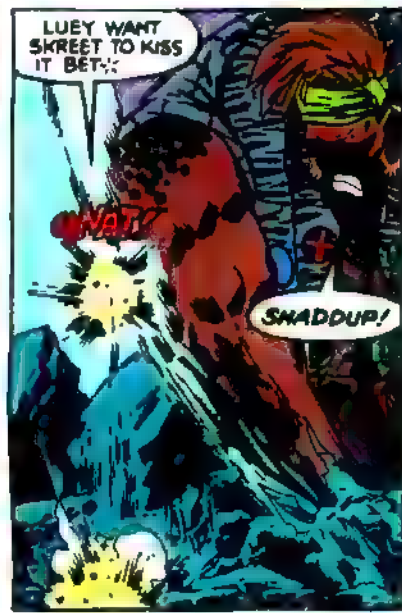


WHAT I MEAN,
BASE ONE, IS
THAT I HAVE
LOCKED THE
DOOR OF YOUR
PRISON--



-- AND I
SHALL NOT BE
RETURNING WITH
THE KEY!

YOU ARE
BOUND TO THE
ECOSYSTEM OF
THIS PLANET AND
SHALL DIE SHOULD
YOU LEAVE!



MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

MARVEL
COMICS

175

EARLY MAR

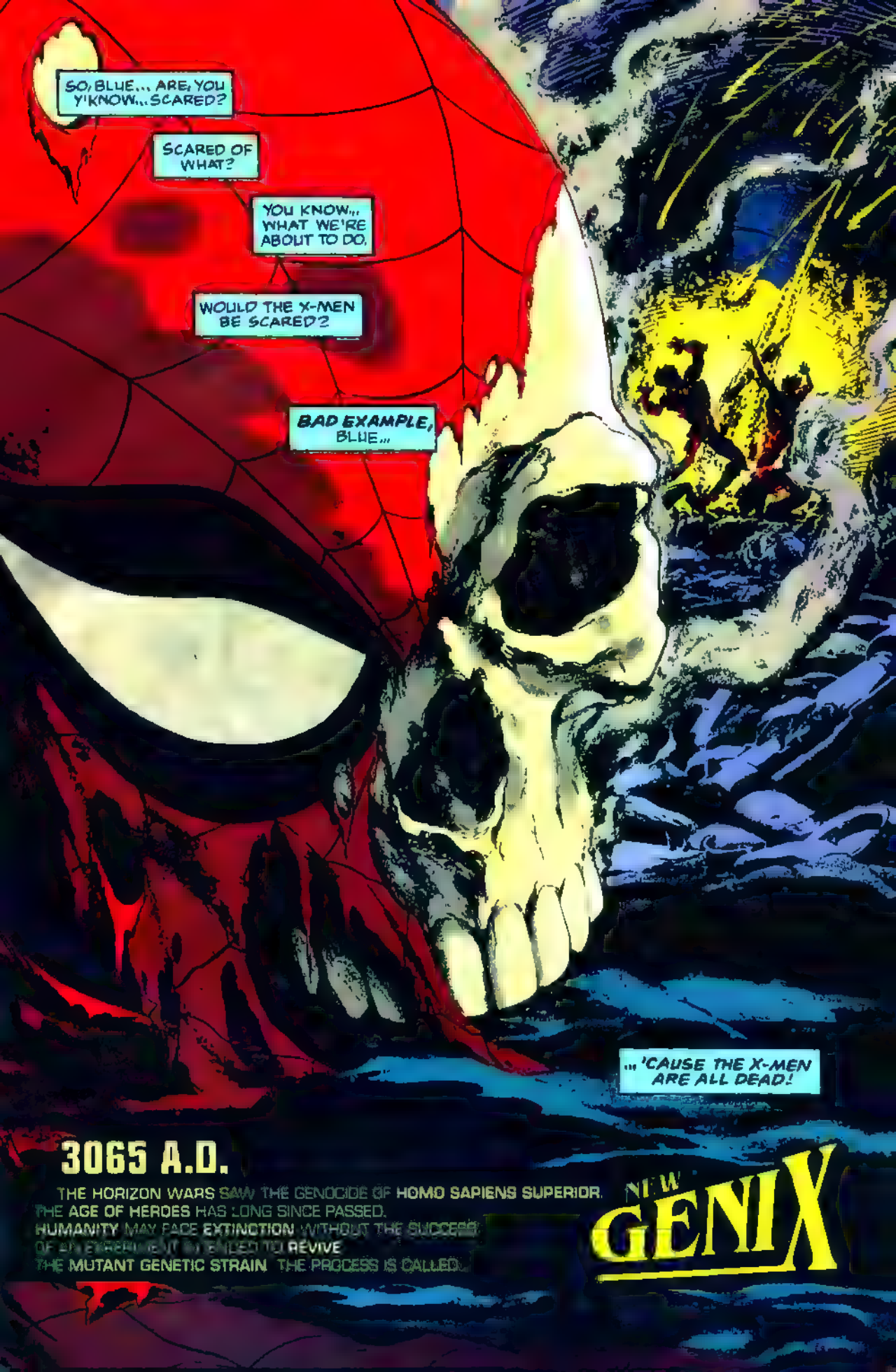
\$1.75 US

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NEW GENIX





SO, BLUE... ARE YOU
Y'KNOW... SCARED?

SCARED OF
WHAT?

YOU KNOW...
WHAT WE'RE
ABOUT TO DO.

WOULD THE X-MEN
BE SCARED?

BAD EXAMPLE,
BLUE...

... 'CAUSE THE X-MEN
ARE ALL DEAD!

3065 A.D.

THE HORIZON WARS SAW THE GENOCIDE OF HOMO SAPIENS SUPERIOR.
THE AGE OF HEROES HAS LONG SINCE PASSED.
HUMANITY MAY FACE EXTINCTION WITHOUT THE SUCCESS
OF AN EXPERIMENT INTENDED TO REVIVE
THE MUTANT GENETIC STRAIN. THE PROCESS IS CALLED...

NEW
GENIX

"BESIDES, THEY WERE BORN MUTANTS. NOBODY HAD TO TUNE THEM UP.

AND THEY CERTAINLY DIDN'T HAVE NEURAL IMPLANTS IN THEIR SKULLS.

SO WHAT'S YOUR POINT?

YOU CAN'T SAY YOU'RE NOT NERVOUS, BLUE.

I MEAN, LOOK WHAT HAPPENED TO MERIDIAN WHEN SHE HAD THE 'OP'.

SHE'S BARELY ALIVE, STUCK IN A COMA-- MAYBE FOREVER!

MEMBER LAST TIME? YOU PUT ME UNDER.

NO CAN DO TODAY, ELVIS.

WE HAVE TO MONITOR RETINAL ACTIVITY.

OH.

WHAT IF ONE OF US CROAKS LIKE...

MUZZLE IT, SHORTY. DO YOU WANT ALLEGRA TO HEAR THAT?

I USED TO HAVE PRETTY HAIR...

AN' IT'S JUST STARTING TO COME BACK...

DON'T WORRY, SWEETY.

ALLEGRA'S MOM SHOULDN'T HAVE DIED THAT WAY.

I NEED SUCTION HERE.

STAT!

EVERYTHING IS LOOKING A-OK, KID.

WHERE'S THAT SUCTION?! GET IN HERE! NOW!

THIS IS GROSS

HAVE FAITH, MUNCHKIN.

YEAH...

DOC HOFFNER...

...DOC HOFFNER WOULDN'T LET US DOWN...

...RIGHT, BLUE?

BIO-PULSE IS STEADY AND STRONG. POWER INHIBITOR IS READY FOR DE/ACTIVATING SIGNAL.

PIECE O' CAKE, SON! NOW WE CAN GIVE YOU THAT SEDATIVE...

THIS WAY, ALLEGRA--

--YOU'RE NEXT!

...YOU'LL NEED YOUR REST.

BIO-PULSE READS GOOD.



C'MON, GUYS! LET'S MOVE IT!

QUIT ADMIRING YOURSELVES.

I HATE SLO-MO!

AREN'T WE SUPPOSED TO BE PRACTICING? Y'KNOW...

...USING OUR POWERS!

NOT THAT YOU DON'T MAKE A BEAUTIFUL STATUE, BLUE-BOY.

THESE COSTUMES ARE FANTASTIC!

GUYS! WE REALLY LOOK LIKE SUPER HEROES!

EVEN YOU, MUNCHKIN!

WE'LL BE MONITORING...

GOOD LUCK, KIDS.

HEY, HAS ANYBODY SEEN ALLEGRA? SHE JUST DISAPPEARED.

TEST SUBJECTS ARE IN POSITION.

CALL ME NEUTRON, OKAY, ELVIS?

SURE, MUNCHKIN!

...ACCELERATED METABOLISM.

"I THINK SHE MUST HAVE GONE HYPER."

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS THING!

IT LOOKS LIKE A PERFECT REPLICA OF A BLOOD-SOLDIER FROM THE HORIZON WARS.

WHAT A MORBID CHOICE FOR A SPARRING PARTNER--

--THESE THINGS MASSACRED THE INHUMANS AND KILLED A DOZEN OR SO AVENGERS!

I CAN'T WAIT TO TEAR IT APART!

I HATE THIS!

WHEN I'M OPERATING AT HYPERSPEED, THE WORLD SEEMS TO SLOW DOWN TO A CRAWL! GOTTA GET A GRIP! FORCE MYSELF! FFFFFFFF TEWWWWWWWWW...



... SLOW DOWN.

THERE SHE IS!

SHE'S VISIBLE AGAIN.

ALLEGRA--

HI, BLUE!

--WATCH OUT!!!

OH, GOD!

DIFFICULT PROGRAMMING
REALIZED

THIS IS NO TRAINING EXERCISE!

THIS ISN'T SUPPOSED TO BE HAPPENING!

TARGETS IDENTIFIED
SUPER-HUMAN

TERMINATION

THAT THING FRIED ALLEGRA!

FRIED HER!

WE'RE NOT REAL SUPER HEROES!

I'M COMING, ALLEGRA!

THAT ROBOT'S GONE BERSERK!

BUT, BLUE... SHE'S D--

CAN'T SOMEBODY TURN THAT THING OFF?!

PLEASE?

NIGHTMARE FORCE
GIVEN FORM...

...THE STEEL AND ADA-
MANTUM EMBODIMENT
OF MANKIND'S FINAL
HOLOCAUST...

PLEASE,
GOD, LET
ALLEGRA
BE ALIVE!

...A GRIM,
METALLIC
REAPER
FROM THE
PAST!

YOU MURDERED,
POISONED AND PUSHED...

... BUT
YOU CAN'T PUSH
US ANYMORE!

THIS IS
THE END,
BLAST YOU!

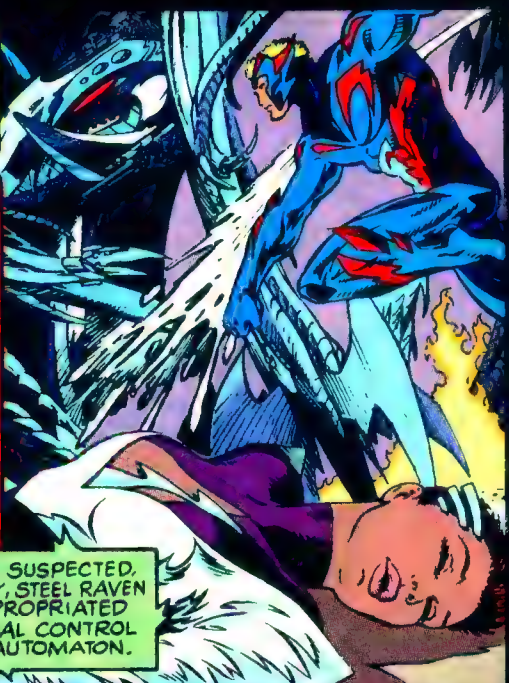
TASTE THE
POWER OF-

NEW GENEX!

ELSEWHERE, WITHIN THE LABYRINTHIAN STRONGHOLD KNOWN AS THE **FORTRESS**, THE MASTER OF THE CASTLE GATHERS DATA.



AS YOU SUSPECTED, ZACHARY, STEEL RAVEN HAS APPROPRIATED PERSONAL CONTROL OF THE AUTOMATON.



SUBJECT: LAME NAME ALLEGRA
IMPLANT SENSORS CONFIRM ACCELERATED HEALING.
HIGHER SPEED IS ONLY THE MOST OBVIOUS ASPECT OF ALLEGRA'S INCREDIBLE METABOLISM.
RIGHT COPY OF COMPLETE READINGS DOWNLOADED FOR LATER INSPECTION.

ESTIMATED RECOVERY?

56 SECONDS

OBVIOUSLY THIS PLACES THE LIVES OF YOUR TEST SUBJECTS IN JEOPARDY.

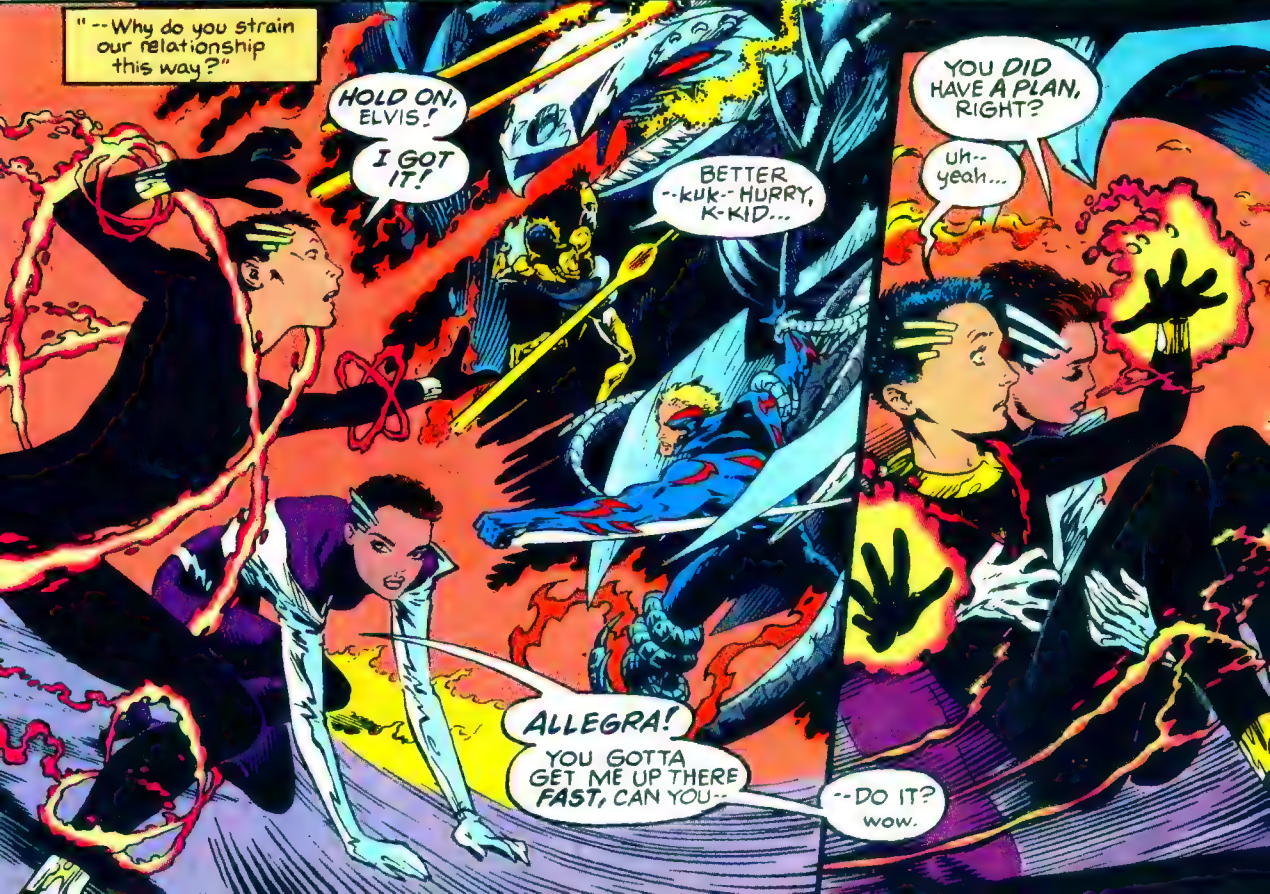


YOU WERE MISTAKEN ABOUT THIS BOY, SID.

SUBJECT: C.N. BLUE SHARK
SUPERIOR STRENGTH
SPEED, AGILITY, REFLEXES, VISION
RECOVERY RATE ALL SENSORS
SHOW OPTIMAL PERFORMANCE
UNDER PRESSURE

HE DOES HAVE THE FIERCENESS OF HIS ATLANTIAN BREED.

"--Why do you strain our relationship this way?"



HOLD ON, ELVIS!

I GOT IT!

BETTER --KUK-- HURRY, K-KID...

YOU DID HAVE A PLAN, RIGHT?

Uh-- yeah...

ALLEGRA!
YOU GOTTA GET ME UP THERE FAST, CAN YOU--

--DO IT? wow.

DO YOU HEAR ME, ZACHARY? SOMETHING MUST BE DONE...

ENOUGH, SID.

I WILL NOT HAVE MY JUDGMENT QUESTIONED

VERY WELL, DOCTOR HOFFNER!

SUBJECT: C.N.

BOMBARDIER HAS DEMONSTRATED HIS ABILITY TO HARNESS ERRANT BIOLOGICAL ENERGY, TRANSFORMING IT INTO UNSTABLE MATTER. HE HAS *** INTERRUPT IMMINENT DANGER! BODY ARMOR NEARING MAXIMUM TOLERANCE!

EMERGENCY OVERRIDE, COMPUTER, RE-ROUTE CONTROL TO THIS CONSOLE, IMMEDIATELY!



COMPUTER, RESPOND! I MUST HAVE CONTROL OF BLOODSOLDIER 9, NOW!

SUBJECT: C.N., MUNCHKIN

MUNCHKIN HAS YET TO INITIATE USE OF MASS-DENSITY POWERS. SENSORS INDICATE BLOOD PRESSURE RATE HIGH. EPINEPHRINE LEVELS HIGH...

COMPUTER--THIS IS ZACHARY HOFFNER-- YOU MUST RESPOND...

OH, MS. Charboneau.

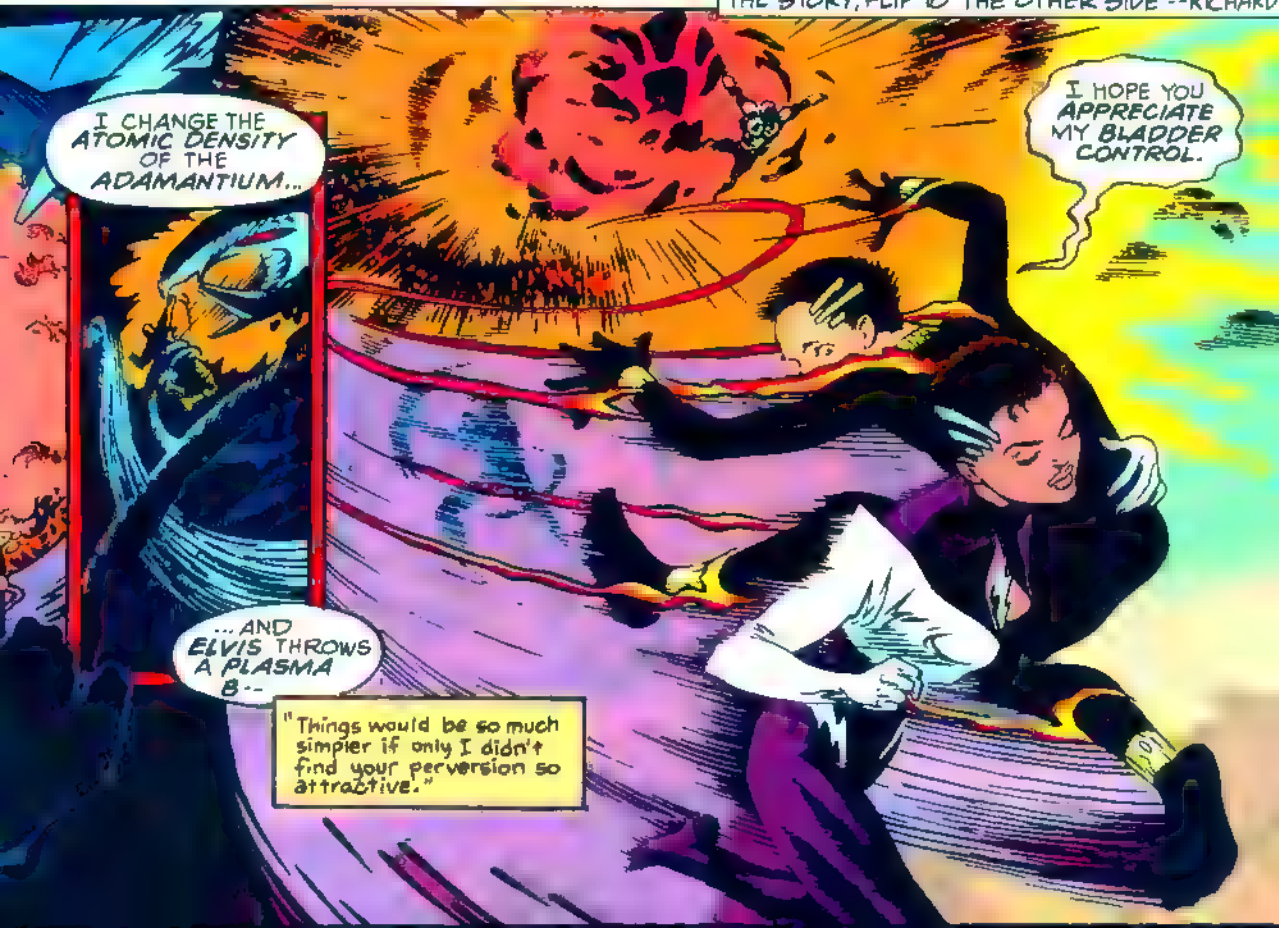
*AKA, STEEL RAVEN AND FOR HER PART N THE STORY, FLIP TO THE OTHER SIDE --RICHARD

I CHANGE THE ATOMIC DENSITY OF THE ADAMANTIUM...

...AND ELVIS THROWS A PLASMA B--

"Things would be so much simpler if only I didn't find your perversion so attractive."

I HOPE YOU APPRECIATE MY BLADDER CONTROL.



"EVEN YOU MUST ADMIT--
THE EXPERIMENT WAS A
TREMENDOUS SUCCESS,
DESPITE THE UNAUTHORIZED
PARTICIPATION OF THE
LOVELY STEEL RAVEN."

"YOU LIVE A CHARMED
EXISTENCE, ZACHARY."

"I KNOW, SID
-- I KNOW."

YOU LOOK
ALL SHOOK UP.

WAS THAT
= KOFF =
A JOKE,
MUNCH?

HE'S ALL SHOOK UP!
GET IT? BUT HE SURVIVED...
WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM
HIS FRIENDS!

HEY,
GUY-- YOU
ALL RIGHT?

?
some
difference

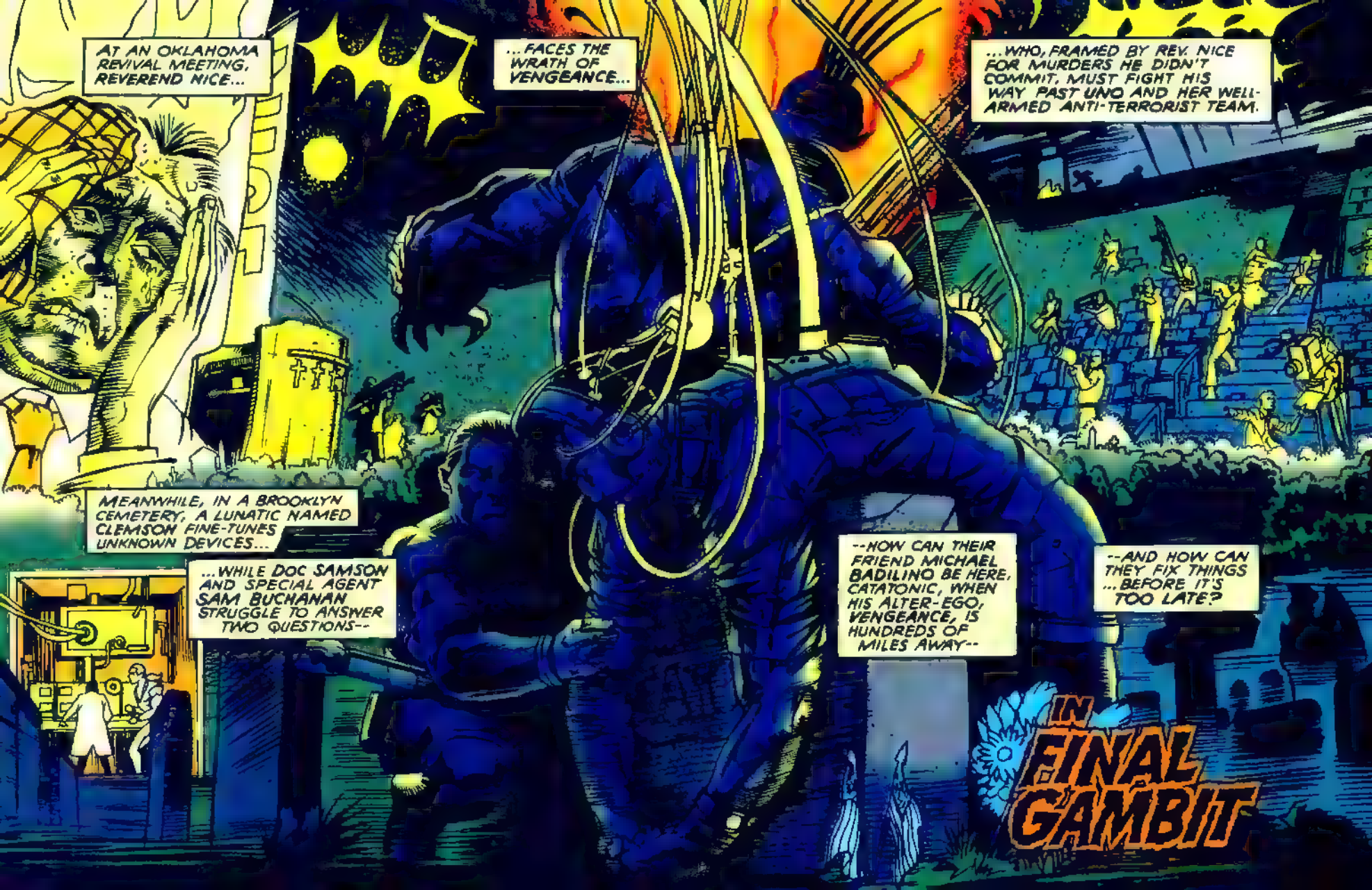
"SHE'S GONE HYPER AGAIN!"

I THINK
THAT WAS A
BEATLES SONG,
MUNCHKIN.

Hey-- WHERE'S
ALLEGRA?

Oh,
Hann...

I HATE SLO-MO!



AT AN OKLAHOMA
REVIVAL MEETING,
REVEREND NICE...

...FACES THE
WRATH OF
VENGEANCE...

...WHO, FRAMED BY REV. NICE
FOR MURDERS HE DIDN'T
COMMIT, MUST FIGHT HIS
WAY PAST UNO AND HER WELL-
ARMED ANTI-TERRORIST TEAM.

MEANWHILE, IN A BROOKLYN
CEMETERY, A LUNATIC NAMED
CLEMSON FINE-TUNES
UNKNOWN DEVICES...

...WHILE DOC SAMSON
AND SPECIAL AGENT
SAM BUCHANAN
STRUGGLE TO ANSWER
TWO QUESTIONS--

--HOW CAN THEIR
FRIEND MICHAEL
BADILINO BE HERE,
CATATONIC, WHEN
HIS ALTER-EGO,
VENGEANCE, IS
HUNDREDS OF
MILES AWAY--

--AND HOW CAN
THEY FIX THINGS
...BEFORE IT'S
TOO LATE?

IN
**FINAL
GAMBIT**

THIS IS FOR OUR
TEAMMATE REBECCA TAYLOR
--THE WOMAN YOU MURDERED
ALONG WITH THAT LITTLE
GIRL! *

EVERYBODY--
OPEN FIRE!!

ZRAAK

AAARGH!

WHAT'S HIS
PROGNOSIS,
DOC?

BADILINO'S
COMPLETELY
UNRESPONSIVE
TO EXTERNAL
STIMULI,
BUCHANAN.

WHAT ARE YOUR
GIZMOS DOING TO
HIM, CLEMSON?

WHY, FULFILLING
HIS FONDEST
WISH!

AFTER THE TRAGEDY OF
RECENT DAYS, BADILINO
WANTED TO BE FREE
OF HIS VENGEANCE
PERSONA--

--SO MY "GIZMOS"
ARE TAKING THE ENERGY
AND ESSENCE OF VEN-
GEANCE AND PROJECT-
ING IT ELSEWHERE!

YOU SEE, BADILINO'S
RELATIONSHIP WITH
THAT TAYLOR WOMAN
HAD MADE HIM TOO
HAPPY.

HE'D GAINED CONTROL
OF HIS LIFE, CONTROL
OF VENGEANCE'S
VIOLENT TENDENCIES...

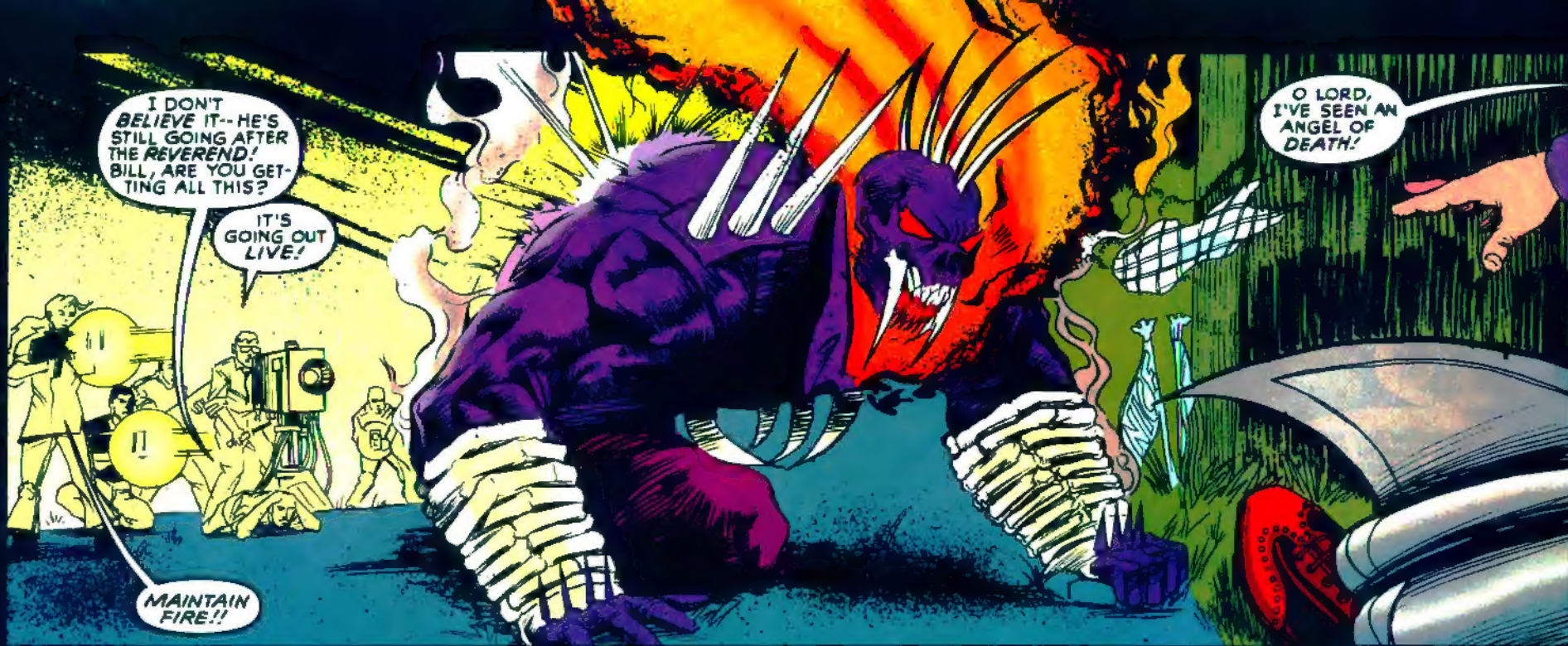
...AND I NEEDED
AN OUT-OF-CONTROL
VENGEANCE, SO
THAT ALL SUPER-
HUMANS WOULD
SUFFER FROM
THE PUBLIC FEAR
(AND LOATHING).

BUT NOW,
WITH MY MACHINES
UNLEASHING VENGEANCE
UNENCUMBERED BY BAD-
ILINO'S HUMAN COMPAS-
SION AND RESTRAINT--

--I'M GLAD
TO SAY HE'S
WREAKING MORE
HAVOC THAN EVER
BEFORE.

YOU GOT THE
"CORRECT
ONE" CHILD!

**ALWAYS
@
CADKE**



I DON'T BELIEVE IT-- HE'S STILL GOING AFTER THE REVEREND! BILL, ARE YOU GETTING ALL THIS?

IT'S GOING OUT LIVE!

MAINTAIN FIRE!!

O LORD, I'VE SEEN AN ANGEL OF DEATH!



IF IT'S THESE MACHINES THAT ARE MAKING VENGEANCE GO NUTS--

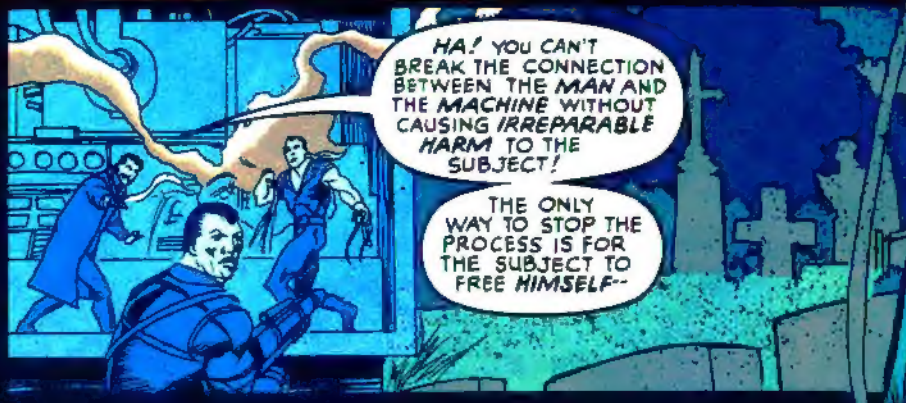
--THAT'S A PROBLEM MY STRENGTH CAN EASILY TAKE CARE OF!

WAIT!

WOOO

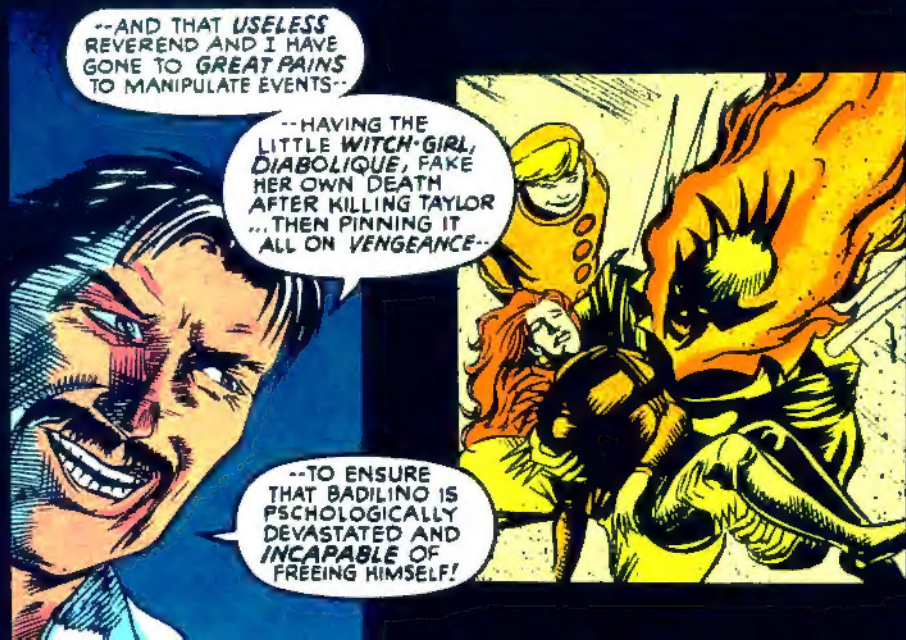


YEAAARGH!



HA! YOU CAN'T
BREAK THE CONNECTION
BETWEEN THE MAN AND
THE MACHINE WITHOUT
CAUSING IRREPARABLE
HARM TO THE
SUBJECT!

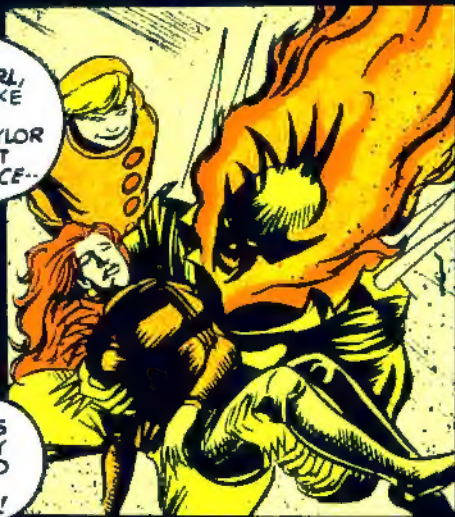
THE ONLY
WAY TO STOP THE
PROCESS IS FOR
THE SUBJECT TO
FREE HIMSELF--



--AND THAT USELESS
REVEREND AND I HAVE
GONE TO GREAT PAINS
TO MANIPULATE EVENTS--

--HAVING THE
LITTLE WITCH-GIRL,
DIABOLIQUE, FAKE
HER OWN DEATH
AFTER KILLING TAYLOR
... THEN PINNING IT
ALL ON VENGEANCE--

--TO ENSURE
THAT BADILINO IS
PSYCHOLOGICALLY
DEVASTATED AND
INCAPABLE OF
FREEING HIMSELF!



WRONG, CLEMSON!
I'M A PSYCHIATRIST...
I KNOW BADILINO...
AND HE'S STRONGER
THAN THAT! ONCE I
TALK TO HIM--

NO!



I'LL DO IT.
TRUST ME
ON THIS ONE,
DOC.



CEASE FIRE! HE'S TOO CLOSE TO THE REVEREND!

MY GOD... HE'S GOING TO--

PLEASE, ~~BEG~~ YOU... KILL ME!

I CAN'T LIVE WITH MYSELF ANYMORE!

I'VE BARGAINED WITH THE DEVIL-- IN THE FORM OF THAT GIRL, *DIABOLIQUE*! SHE DIDN'T REALLY DIE...

...IT WAS ALL A SETUP... AND I SACRIFICED MY OWN WIFE TO MAKE IT WORK!

AND THAT OFFICER-- TAYLOR-- HER BLOOD IS ON MY HANDS TOO! SO MUCH BLOOD...

...TOO MUCH... NOT OUR SAVIOR'S...

...KILL ME PLEASE... KILL ME...



HELLO, BADILINO. IT'S BUCHANAN. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN HEAR ME...

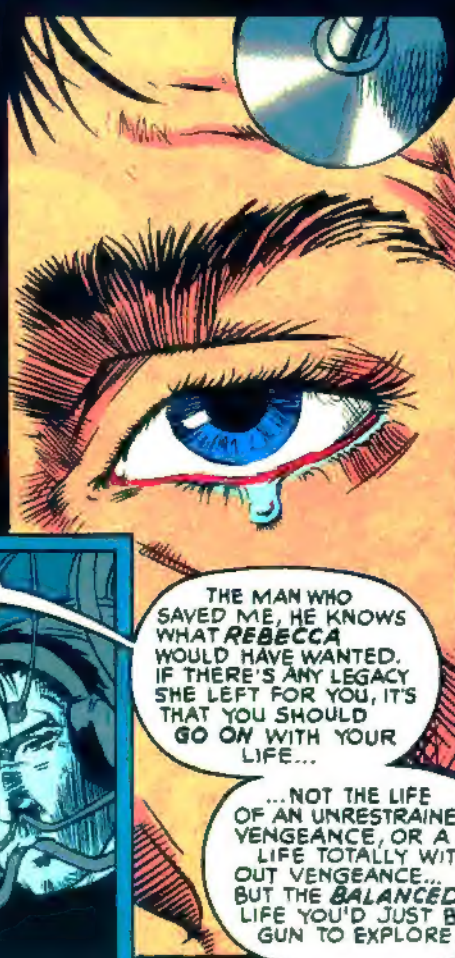
...BUT I WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT *DIABOLIQUE*--THE GIRL YOU THOUGHT YOU KILLED-- SHE'S ALIVE.

VENGEANCE ISN'T A CHILD-MURDERER.

I KNOW THAT'S COLD COMFORT TO YOU RIGHT NOW... BECAUSE I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH.

I LOST SOMEONE I LOVED TOO, REMEMBER? BUT JUST WHEN I WAS ABOUT TO BECOME LOST TO BITTERNESS, SOMEBODY SAVED ME...

...YOU.



THE MAN WHO SAVED ME, HE KNOWS WHAT REBECCA WOULD HAVE WANTED. IF THERE'S ANY LEGACY SHE LEFT FOR YOU, IT'S THAT YOU SHOULD GO ON WITH YOUR LIFE...

...NOT THE LIFE OF AN UNRESTRAINED VENGEANCE, OR A LIFE TOTALLY WITHOUT VENGEANCE... BUT THE BALANCED LIFE YOU'D JUST BEGUN TO EXPLORE.



FREE!

FOR HER SAKE, BADILINO, DON'T THROW THAT AWAY. TAKE BACK ALL THAT'S VENGEANCE-- AND SET YOURSELF FREE!

